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December 2, 2007

Ms. Victoria J. Rutson  
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E. Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Rutson,

The Village of Barrington and the surrounding area is facing a disastrous situation that could destroy the homeowner's quality of life as well as the viability of its business districts.

The Canadian National Railroad (CN) is seeking the United States Surface Transportation Board approval to buy the Elgin, Joliet, & Eastern Railway Company (EJ&E). The Board is mandated to approve the purchase unless there is reasonable belief that the purchase would reduce freight transportation competition.

The EJ&E has a line that cuts through the heart of Barrington. If the CN is successful in their bid to buy EJ&E, the number of freight trains that would run each day would increase from approximately 5 to 20 or more. In addition, CN plans to permit four other major railroads access to the EJ&E line that would further increase daily use by freight trains wreaking havoc on the Barrington Community. Although it is impossible at this time to estimate the number of freight trains from the other railroads, the 20 CN freight trains take an average of 6 minutes to pass through a single railroad crossing totaling 2 hours every day. The gridlock created by simply adding 15 more freight trains from CN at each of the four railroad crossing in the Village of Barrington would essentially curtail all vehicular traffic in the Village, impede school bus emergency vehicle movement, and eventually destroy the viability and vitality of the community.

There are a number of other facts and issues concerning the sale of the EJ&E to CN that impact Barrington:

1. The EJ&E line essentially cuts Barrington in half, with downtown and the middle schools on one side and the high school and Good Shepherd Hospital on the other. Ambulances, rushing to the hospital delayed at a railroad crossing could be life threatening. For school children, buses encountering crossing delays can make them late to school and could double or triple the time spent on the bus. It also increases their bus time on their ride from school. School buses cross the EJ&E tracks 370 to 400 times a day. For those children walking, biking and riding to school, railroad crossings present a serious safety concern. Rail commuters are also at risk and faced with the same delays.



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2. The Village of Barrington has been working diligently to develop its downtown business district. If shoppers and diners find it too difficult to get into Barrington because of blocked railroad crossing due to freight trains, they will go to another shopping area and by pass Barrington. To retain necessary consumers for Barrington's economy, elimination of delays at railroad crossings is imperative!

3. With at least four times the number of railroad crossing delays, the values of residential and commercial property will plummet. One of the major reasons people live in Barrington is because it is a safe, country environment with downtown amenities. With the increase in freight trains and the limited access to the Village, schools, and the hospital, the property values will reduce dramatically. Noise pollution from the freight trains will be more frequent and louder due to longer and heavier trains, greatly affecting quality of life at numerous homes in Barrington.

4. The new Citizens Park, which is adjacent to the EJ&E line, will be affected by the frequency of the freight trains. The trains will eliminate easy access to the Park and its use by Villagers. The \$14,000,000 bond issue that made the Park a reality will have been for naught.

If we are going to preserve the Village of Barrington as a safe and peaceful community—a great place to live, we need your help. We need to preserve the real essence of the Village that invites people to come live here and enjoy the benefits of an outstanding educational system for children and an excellent hospital. Don't let traffic and pedestrian safety become a bigger concern than it already has become. Help SAVE Barrington!

Thank you,

Donald E. Pearson

Resident- Village of Barrington

*The Village of Barrington is at serious risk. Help save Barrington!*